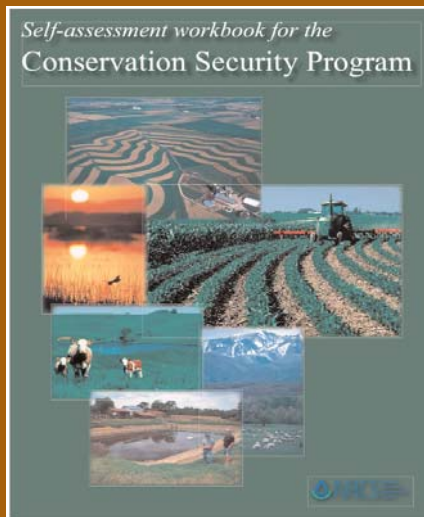


Conservation Security Program (CSP)



Rewarding the Best...Motivating the Rest

The Conservation Security Program rewards the best conservation stewards with financial payments and technical assistance and encourages others to implement conservation practices on working agricultural lands.

We encourage every landowner who thinks they may want to enroll in CSP to visit our website at www.co.nrcs.usda.gov.

The Program

CSP is a voluntary program that provides financial and technical assistance to promote the conservation and improvement of soil, water, air, energy, plant and animal life, and other conservation purposes on Tribal and private working farm and ranch lands. Eligible lands include cropland, rangeland, pasture land, as well as forested land that is an incidental part of an agriculture operation.

Basic Eligibility

All applicants must meet the following minimum tier eligibility and contract requirements, plus any additional requirements in the sign-up announcement.

- ✓ **For Tier I**, the producer must have addressed water quality and soil quality to meet the minimum treatment requirements on part of the agricultural operation prior to acceptance into CSP.
- ✓ **For Tier II**, the producer must have addressed water quality and soil quality to meet the minimum treatment requirements on the entire agricultural operation prior to acceptance and agree to address one additional resource concern by the end of the contract period.
- ✓ **For Tier III**, the producer must have addressed all resource concerns to a resource management system level that meets the Field Office Technical Guide standards on the entire agricultural operation before acceptance into the program and agree

to additional enhancement activities outlined in the sign-up announcement.

Soil quality practices might include crop rotation, cover crops, conservation tillage, prescribed grazing, and adequate wind barriers. Water quality practices might include filter strips, grassed waterways, managed access to streams, nutrient and pest management, prescribed grazing, and irrigation water management.

Payments

Total payments are determined by the tier of participation:

- ✓ **For Tier I**, contracts are for 5 years; maximum payment is \$20,000 annually.
- ✓ **For Tier II**, contracts are for 5-10 years; maximum payment is \$35,000 annually.
- ✓ **For Tier III**, contracts are for 5-10 years, maximum payment is \$45,000 annually.

John Scott (right), District Conservationist, Gunnison Field Office, Gunnison, CO, conducts a survey on Greg Peterson's (left) Razor Creek Ranch. Peterson manages two ranches that were selected for CSP in 2005.



Contract Payments

CSP contract payments include one or more of the following:

- ✓ An annual stewardship component for the existing base level conservation treatment.
- ✓ An annual existing practice component for maintaining existing conservation practices.
- ✓ A one-time new practice component for **additional needed practices**.
- ✓ An enhancement component for exceptional conservation effort and additional conservation practices or activities that provide increased resource benefits beyond the prescribed level.

CSP 2005

In 2005, CSP was available within ten Colorado watersheds. Those watersheds were Beaver, Pawnee, Arikaree, Rush, Piceance-Yellow, San Luis, Saguache, Tomichi, Upper White, and McElmo. Three more watersheds were in cooperation with neighboring states and they were Middle Arkansas-Lake McKinney, Montezuma, and Upper Lodgepole.



CSP 2006

2006 marks the third CSP sign-up (second for Colorado). During the 2004 and 2005 signups, the privately-owned land enrolled in CSP covered nearly 11 million acres across the 50 states and U.S. territories.

2005 SIGN-UP SUMMARY COLORADO

County	Contracts	Acres	2005 \$
Washington	43	99,093	\$667,002
Yuma	27	46,832	\$610,594
Morgan	11	11,160	\$162,201
Saguache	10	17,663	\$123,118
Rio Blanco	9	16,049	\$ 50,398
Elbert	7	7,806	\$ 78,696
Dolores	5	3,938	\$ 43,617
Rio Grande	4	2,511	\$ 60,884
Weld	4	8,977	\$ 42,930
Gunnison	4	1,404	\$ 33,713
Alamosa	4	1,869	\$ 24,667
Cheyenne	1	37,510	\$ 35,000
Totals:	129	254,812	\$1,932,820

In 2006, Colorado will receive funding in one watershed, the Middle South Platte – Sterling Watershed, which covers some 1.9 million acres in the north-eastern portion of Colorado. The area encompasses portions of seven Colorado counties, including Weld, Arapahoe, Sedgwick, Adams, Logan, Morgan, and Washington. About four percent of the watershed's farmland acreage lies in southwestern Nebraska in Cheyenne and Deuel counties. There are an estimated 1,550 farms in the watershed. Agricultural land uses within the Middle South Platte-Sterling Watershed include irrigated cropland, non-irrigated cropland, non-irrigated pasture, and rangeland.

***2006 CSP sign-up will be February 13
March 31, 2006.***